

**CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**RIDE-A-LONG PROGRAM**

TO: Ride-A-Long Observers  
FROM: Operations Bureau Commander  
SUBJECT: **INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIDE-A-LONG OBSERVERS**

The opportunity to observe police patrol activities is offered to students and interested persons through the cooperation of the Chief of Police. Strict adherence to the following instructions is necessary in order to safeguard participants, and to minimize the possibility of interference with normal department activities.

1. Persons riding in the capacity of "ride-a-long" are under the complete control of the regular Officer at all times.
2. Ride-a-longs shall not leave the unit at the scene of any police activity without first obtaining the permission of the Officer.
3. Ride-a-longs shall not participate in any police activity unless directly requested by the Officer.
4. Ride-a-longs shall not converse with prisoners, suspects, and witnesses or other parties contacted on police business, unless requested by the officer.
5. Ride-a-longs shall not interfere with the officer's activities at any time, although it is desirable and you are encouraged to ask questions regarding procedures, activities, it must be done at an appropriate time.
6. Ride-a-longs shall arrive at headquarters 15 minutes prior to the scheduled ride-a-long and present themselves to the desk sergeant. The desk sergeant may ask for identification so be prepared to show the proper ID. Ride-a-longs will be returned at the conclusion of the shift or at the request of the ride-a-long.
7. Male and female ride-a-longs shall wear conservative and neat clothes (no jeans, shorts, or tennis shoes).
8. All ride-a-longs must sign a **waiver of liability** and **submit a copy of your driver license**. If the ride-a-long is, at least 17 years of age but not yet 21 years of age, one parent, or guardian must sign the waiver in the presence of a member of this department or a notary. No one under 17 is allowed to ride-a-long.
9. No "police type" clothing or paraphernalia shall be worn or carried by the observer.
10. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please notify, Mrs. Olive Coleman at (843) 720-2449 or [alstono@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:alstono@charleston-sc.gov) as soon as possible in advance of the date and time scheduled.



# City of Charleston

SOUTH CAROLINA

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOHN J. TECKLENBURG  
Mayor

GREGORY G. MULLEN  
Chief of Police

### RIDE-A-LONG INFORMATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FOR JUVENILE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt. #

City State Zip Code Phone

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DRIVERS LICENSE #/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ RACE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

1. Prospective adult ride-a-long candidates **must be** at least **17 years old**. Those person who are 17 years old but who are not yet 21 years of age must bring a parent or guardian who, at the time of the Juvenile's Application, must then sign the attached release and agreement form on behalf of the child or ward.
2. Forms pertaining to the Ride-A-Long Program will not be removed from the Operations Bureau office.
3. The Operations Bureau Commander will assign all ride-a-longs to a team. Only three (3) rides per person are allowed and both the Juvenile Application and his parent or guardian must execute a Ride-A-Long Information Form Agreement and Release. The Department, through its Operation Bureau, may waive the three (3) ride limit and the requirements of a release form for each ride. The Operations Bureau Commander may make this waiver decision.
4. The main purpose of the Charleston Police Department's Ride-A-Long Program is to give an overall view of a policeman's duties.

5. **No ride-a-long request will be granted** unless the request is received **48 hours prior** to the intended ride.
6. All applications **must be reviewed and approved by the Operations Bureau Commander before applicant can ride.**

**AGREEMENT ASSUMING RISK OF INJURY OR DAMAGE WAIVER  
AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT  
CAUTION: READ THIS DOCUMENT IN FULL BEFORE SIGNING**

Whereas I, \_\_\_\_\_, not being over the age of 21 years of age or older, but at least 17 years of age, and not being a member of the Charleston Police Department (South Carolina), have made a voluntary request to ride as a guest in a vehicle assigned to the Charleston Police Department and to accompany a member(s) of the police department during the performance of their official duties.

Whereas, the Charleston Police Department is willing to allow me to ride as a guest in a vehicle assigned to that department, and to accompany a member(s) of the department during the performance of their duties on the following conditions:

I \_\_\_\_\_ as parent of guardian of \_\_\_\_\_

1. That I am aware that the work of the Police Department is inherently dangerous, and that \_\_\_\_\_ may be subjected to the threat of death or personal injury, or damage to my property, by accompanying a member(s) of the police department during the performance of their official duties, and that I freely, voluntarily and with such knowledge assume the risk or death, personal injury, or property damage arising from, or in any way connected with the use of weapons, unlawful acts, or forcible resistance by law violators, assault, riot, breach of peace, vehicle accidents, fire, explosion, gas or electrocution.
2. That the City of Charleston, Chief of Police, his sureties, all members of the Charleston Police Department, their sureties, and each of them shall not be responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss or expense, either to me or my property, incurred while riding in any vehicle assigned to the Charleston Police during the performance of their official duties resulting from any negligent act or omission on the part of any member of the Charleston Police Department. Any that during the time that \_\_\_\_\_ is riding in any, for civil damages against the driver of the vehicle or any other person legally liable for the conduct of the driver for death, personal injury, or property damage occurring during such time is that provided in Section §56.9-10, et. Seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.
3. For \_\_\_\_\_, his/her executors, administrators and assigns to defend and indemnify the Charleston Police Department, their sureties and each of them, against any and all manner of actions, causes of action, sureties, debts, claims, demands, damages, liability or expense of every kind and nature incurred or arising by reason of any actual or claimed negligent or wrongful act or omission of \_\_\_\_\_ while riding in any vehicle assigned to the Charleston Police Department or while

accompanying any member(s) of said Charleston Police Department during the performance of their official duties.

4. That this information Form, Release and Agreement are applicable on one ride and one ride only; a maximum of three (3) rides allowed to any one individual.

OPTIONAL: However, if the Commander of the Operations Bureau should so determine that it would be in the best interest of the department to allow any number of ride-a-long rides,

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent or Guardian) of \_\_\_\_\_, agree that this Release and agreement shall be binding and in force as to any ride-a-long rides that \_\_\_\_\_ may take and \_\_\_\_\_, as Parent or Guardian, understand that I WILL NOT be notified by the Department of each individual ride-a-long and that notice will be the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_. Further, that this agreement and release will continue in force and effect until revoke by \_\_\_\_\_, by personally appearing at the Operations bureau, Charleston Police Department, 180 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston, South Carolina and requesting the termination of \_\_\_\_\_ from the Ride-A-Long Program.

I hereby represent that I have carefully read and fully understand the contents of this document and sign the same of my own free will. I have also received a copy of the instruction for a Ride-A-Long Observers and agree to abide by the rules therein.

_____ Date	_____ Applicant Signature
_____ Date	_____ Parent/Guardian Signature
_____ Date	_____ CPD Witness Signature

Notary Public Embosser or Rubber Stamp Seal	State of _____	County _____
	Subscribed Before Me, This _____	Use Rubber Stamp in this Area Below
	Day Of _____	
	Notary Public Signature _____	
	Notary Public (Type or Print) _____	

No\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

On \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Copy Attached \_\_\_\_\_

Copy Attached \_\_\_\_\_

Time/Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Week Day: \_\_\_\_\_

## **RIDE-A-LONG DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

The police department requires that police ride-a-longs dress in a professional manner. The police officers are required to maintain a strict dress code; therefore, no less will be required of anyone that rides with the officer.

**No blue jeans**

**No tennis shoes**

**No tank tops**

**No T-shirts**

**No police oriented material**

Males should wear dress slacks, dress shirt or shirt and tie, and females should wear dress slacks, nice blouse, jacket or blazer, etc.

The desk sergeant is authorized to refuse any ride-a-long that he or she feels is not appropriately attired.

I have read and understand the above guidelines.

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Applicant's Signature/Date

Cc: Desk Sergeants  
Team Lieutenants